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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2008-02

Bifenazate

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Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), under the authority of section 10 of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA), is proposing to establish a maximum residue limit (MRL) for bifenazate on strawberries in order to permit the import and sale of food containing these residues.

Bifenazate is a selective miticide used to control a variety of mite pests on the imported commodity and is currently registered in Canada for use on apples, grapes and greenhouse vegetables (cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes).

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on strawberries when bifenazate is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined such residues will not pose an unacceptable dietary health risk and is proposing to legally establish a corresponding import MRL for strawberries. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the establishment of this import MRL can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available on the PMRA website, under Public Registry, Product Information, Current Applications.[1]

Currently, MRLs are legally established under the Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) after consultation through the *Canada Gazette*. Amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA) via Bill C-28, anticipated to come into force in 2008, will allow pesticide MRLs to be legally established under the PCPA without having to adopt MRLs by regulation under the FDA. This will result in a more efficient means of establishing, revising and revoking pesticide MRLs.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for bifenazate is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps). This action is being taken in advance of Bill C-28 coming into force to allow the MRL to be legally established as soon as possible after the FDA is amended.

There are no legally established Canadian MRLs for bifenazate. However, 22 MRLs were proposed for bifenazate in PMRL2006-01, *Transitioning the Legal Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides from the Food and Drugs Act to the Pest Control Products Act: Consultation on Proposed MRLs*. The proposed import MRL for bifenazate in Canada in or on strawberries is as follows.

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[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2005-4103.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Bifenazate

Common Chemical Name	Chemical Name of Substance	Proposed MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Bifenazate	1-methylethyl 2-(4-methoxy[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl) hydrazinecarboxylate, including the metabolite diazenecarboxylic acid, 2-(4-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl), 1-methylethyl ester	1.5	Strawberries

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found in Table II, Division 15 of the FDR. Once the amendments to the FDA via Bill C-28 are in force, the list of legally established Canadian MRLs will be available on the PMRA's MRL webpage, which will be updated to include the MRL listed in this document.

International Situation and Trade Implications

The proposed Canadian MRL is the same as the corresponding tolerance established in the United States (listed in 40 CFR Part 180 by pesticide). Currently, there are no Codex MRLs[2] established for bifenazate on any commodities (Codex MRLs searchable by pesticide or commodity).

Next Steps

Health Canada's PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed import MRL for bifenazate up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL for bifenazate and before posting an Established Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) document on the PMRA's website once the amendments to the FDA are in force.

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2 Codex is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.